

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02851 260954Z

12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /051 W

----- 065277

R 260820Z SEP 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3827

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2851

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS EG

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE AMNESTY OR DISMISSAL OF CHARGES
AGAINST STUDENTS

REF: CAIRO 2775

1. DURING PAST TEN DAYS GOE APPEARS TO HAVE MOVED CLOSER TO AN ACCOMMODATION WITH CAIRO AREA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. SADAT HAS MET AT BOURG EL-ARAB WITH LEADERS OF STUDENT UNIONS OF EIN SHAMS AND AZHAR UNIVERSITIES FOR DISCUSSIONS OF OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS, AND WE ARE TOLD THAT ASU SPONSORED COLLOQUIUM IS BEING HELD AT AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY TO AIR STUDENT COMPLAINTS. IT REMAINS FOR SADAT TO MEET WITH CAIRO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, BUT THIS IS EXPECTED IN RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE.

2. THERE IS ALSO A GROWING ANTICIPATION THAT GOE WILL EITHER GIVE AMNESTY TO STUDENTS ARRESTED EARLY THIS YEAR AND WHO ARE NOW ON TRIAL, OR DISMISS CHARGES AGAINST THEM. SADAT MAY CHOOSE TO ANNOUNCE THIS DURING SEPTEMBER 28 SPEECH, ALTHOUGH ONE EGYPTIAN SOURCE WHOSE OWN CHILDREN HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN TRIAL PROCEEDINGS SUGGESTS THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF STUDENT/GOE ISSUES MUST TAKE PLACE BEFORE THIS CAN HAPPEN. COMPLICATION HAS ARISEN OVER ARREST OF 18 ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALS WHO DEMONSTRATED AT SEPTEMBER 15 TRIAL (REFTEL), BUT BELIEF IS THAT IF AMNESTY IS EXTENDED TO THOSE 56 ON TRIAL, IT WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED TO
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MOST RECENT ARRESTEES.

3. GOE/STUDENT ACCOMMODATION AND DISMISSAL OF CHARGES AGAINST
ARRESTED STUDENTS AND OTHERS WOULD REMOVE SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLE
TO OPENING OF UNIVERSITIES NEXT MONTH. NEVERTHELESS, MANY
REASONS FOR STUDENT DISCONTENT AND ALIENATION FROM GOE
REMAIN, AND POSSIBILITY FOR FUTURE DISTURBANCES AT UNIVERSI-
TIES HAS BEEN DIMINISHED ONLY SLIGHTLY.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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